

Being born and raised in Guelph I have very strong ties to this city, and am proud to be able to raise my children in this exceptional community. As a long-time resident who, along with my wife, has owned and operated a small business locally for well over a decade I feel it is time to contribute my experiences and insight to this council.

Managing a business is no small task as many know, but I am actually blue collar at my core having also spent years in manufacturing. I have mingled with all facets of society and strongly believe Guelph's diversity is our strength. Regardless of who you are or what you do for a living, you should know you have worth and that you do indeed have a voice.

I have taken great joy and pride in volunteering my time to GMBA, GMHA and Stanley Stick as a coach and mentor to our community's youth for almost 10 years, as well as being a former official in multiple youth sports in my younger days. My kids still play minor sports and I am keen to the challenges that obstruct some of these local organizations. I also spent 3+ years as the stay at home Dad, so I have a sense of what challenges those even more 'close to home' organizations face.

I believe Guelph is one of the best cities in all of North America and is positioned to be a leader in the coming decades and I would like to contribute another viewpoint to this council. I will be diligent in representing the interests of all residents and will work tirelessly to commit to the common cause of keeping the Royal City robust and thriving well into the future. I am eager to serve all of you.

Thank you,

Ryan O'Connor